

## 5 What Is Claimed Is:

Sub B1  
1. A system for providing video communication services to one or more premises, at least one premise including a plurality of video communications-services users, the system comprising:

- (a) a first premises network;
- (b) a plurality of user workstations
  - (i) interconnected by the first premises network, and including
  - (ii) at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities and/or video sink and display capabilities; and
- (c) a multimedia central office
  - (i) in communication with the first premises network,
  - (ii) the central office, in use, transceiving audio, video and digital data signals,
    1. originating at or destined for at least one user workstation,
  - (iii) to and from the premises network to provide video communications services,
  - (iv) the central office further being
    1. coupled to at least one other workstation, not associated with the first premises network, and
    2. configured to combine captured video images, of at least three users, into a mosaic image for reproduction at a workstation of at least one user.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the mosaic image is a combination of at least one first premises user's image and the image of a user of the other workstation.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein:

the central office is further coupled to a public digital network, the central office in use providing aggregation of demand for telecommunication services to groups of subscribers at different premises.

~~4.~~ A system for providing video communication services to one or more premises, at least one premise including a plurality of video communications-services users, the system comprising:

- (a) a first premises network;
- (b) a plurality of user workstations
  - (i) interconnected by the first premises network, and including

5 (ii) at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities and/or video sink and display capabilities; and

(c) a multimedia central office

(i) in communication with the first premises network,

(ii) the central office, in use, transceiving audio, video and digital data signals,

10 1. originating at or destined for at least one user workstation,

(iii) to and from the premises network to provide video communications services,

(iv) the central office further being configured to

1. cause storage of audio and/or video signals generated at at least one workstation,

15 2. as a multimedia document,

3. for subsequent retrieval and play-back in a manner representing the relationship in which the document was were created.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the multimedia central office is

20 (a.) coupled to at least one other workstation, not associated with the first premises network and,

(b) further configured to allow at least one user in the first premises network and a user of the other workstation, to retrieve the multimedia document.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the central office is associated with a multimedia mail system configured to allow a sending user to send the multimedia document as a multimedia mail message to a receiving user at a venue selected from the group consisting of:

(i) in real time at a location removed from the preparing user;

(ii) at a different time at the same location as the document was prepared; and

(iii) at a different time at a location removed from the preparing user.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the multimedia mail system is a third party provider of multimedia mail services.

8. A system for providing video communication services to one or more premises, at least one premise including a plurality of video communications-services users, the system comprising:

(a) a first premises network;

(b) a plurality of user workstations

(i) interconnected by the first premises network, and including

5 (ii) at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities and/or video sink and display capabilities; and

(c) a multimedia central office

(i) in communication with the first premises network,

(ii) the central office, in use, transceiving audio, video and digital data signals,

10 1. originating at or destined for at least one user workstation,

(iii) to and from the premises network to provide video communications services,

(iv) the central office including

1. a static directory of each workstation and its associated capabilities,

(v) the central office further being configured to

15 1. process a call, including at least audio and video signals, from a second to a first user, based on which capabilities are associated with the workstation associated with first user, such that if any capability of the set of capabilities consisting of audio capture, audio reproduction, video capture, video reproduction, and conducting a data conference, is not available to at least one of the users, each user can participate in the  
20 call to the extent of the capabilities available to the user.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the multimedia central office includes a dynamic directory of services.

25 10 The system of claim 9 wherein the dynamic directory service is provided by capturing premises of active users based on log-in registration.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the dynamic directory services is further based on the capture of user status information.

30 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the status information is indicative of a user workstation not responding a user-invoked automatic call-refusal, or call forwarding information.

35 ~~13.~~ A system for providing video communication services to one or more premises, at least one premise including a plurality of video communications-services users, the system comprising:

(a) a first premises network;

(b) a plurality of user workstations

(i) interconnected by the first premises network, and including

5 (ii) at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities and/or video sink and display capabilities; and

(c) a multimedia central office

(i) in communication with the first premises network,

(ii) the central office, in use, transceiving audio, video and digital data signals,

10 1. originating at or destined for at least one user workstation,

(iii) to and from the premises network to provide video communications services,

(iv) the central office including

1. a static directory of each workstation and its associated capabilities,

(v) the central office further being configured to detect an incoming call, including at

15 least audio and video signals, from at least one calling user, at the workstation of a first user and, if the first user is engaged in an active call with a second user, notifying the first user of the identity of each calling user forming a part of the incoming call and providing the first user with the option of accepting the incoming call.

14. A system for providing video communication services to one or more premises, at least one  
20 premise including a plurality of video communications-services users, the system comprising:

(a) a first premises network;

(b) a plurality of user workstations

(i) interconnected by the first premises network, and including

(ii) at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities and/or video sink  
25 and display capabilities; and

(c) a multimedia central office

(i) in communication with the first premises network,

(ii) the central office, in use, transceiving audio, video and digital data signals,

1. originating at or destined for at least one user workstation,

(iii) to and from the premises network to provide video communications services,

(iv) the central office including further being configured to

1. associate a user with the workstation at which the user logs in and to  
route a call, for that user, to the workstation at which that user is logged in.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the call includes at least audio and video signals.

35 16. The system of claim 14, wherein the call includes at least data signals.